

Summary

P500 Shortlisted Grant Applicants for 2020

The applications for the following three shortlisted grant applicants are summarised below:

- 1. BCYF (Barwon Child Youth & Family)**
Youth Futures Crew peer education project
- 2. Feed Me Bellarine**
Establishing and expanding Feed Me Geelong
- 3. Hope Bereavement Care/Bluebird Foundation**
Lighting the Path: Youth Suicide and the art of grieving



BCYF (Barwon Child, Youth & Family)

YOUTH FUTURES CREW – PEER EDUCATION PROJECT

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

BCYF is an independent, not for profit community service organisation committed to achieving better outcomes for vulnerable communities across the Barwon Region. BCYF collaborates with partners to deliver evidence-based prevention, early intervention and treatment programs. BCYF services support people experiencing life problems, including school disengagement, unemployment, child protection issues, family violence, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health concerns, disability, homelessness, suicide and criminal justice issues, among others.

The project seeking funding sits within BCYF's headspace Geelong service platform that helps young people, aged 12-25, in four key areas: Physical health (including sexual health), Mental health, Alcohol and other drugs, and Work and study support.

headspace Geelong has been supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people in the Geelong community for over 12 years. The Geelong headspace site is one of the busiest in Australia and provides 7,000-10,000 occasions of service to young people each year.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The Youth Futures Crew (YFC) is a group of young mental health advocates, many who have lived experience of mental ill-health, passionate about promoting mental health messaging. The YFC is facilitated by headspace Geelong and currently assists in the delivery of community education.

The YFC Peer Education Project aims to increase mental health literacy and help-seeking in young people across the Geelong region, through the development and delivery of evidence-informed mental health education. Young people in the Geelong region are experiencing an extremely challenging 2020. The focus and timing of this project responds to a pressing need for peer-led mental health education and support. YFC members will conduct health promotion sessions in schools and community on topics including positive mental health, looking out for friends and how to seek help. These sessions will include the YFC's personal mental health journeys, resulting in important and relatable mental health messages. The headspace Geelong Community Engagement Officer, who delivers mental health presentations to schools in the region, will support the YFC in the development and administration of the project. The YFC intends to deliver these sessions face-to-face and headspace Geelong will also support the YFC to facilitate sessions online.

Local data of mental health need shows clearly that there is a critical need in the Barwon Region to address the current collective impacts on the mental health of our local young people. This project has been developed to take into account recent client feedback received by BCYF, which indicates there is a high need for alternative education programs tailored to young people, to support their own mental health as well as that of their friends.

There is a pressing need for this project to be delivered now, in a manner that enhances sustainable service delivery over the next 3 years. With the new evidence derived from the evaluation of this program, BCYF and headspace Geelong will work to secure corporate partners in backing the YFC Peer Support Project into the future.

The YFC's objective is to deliver 3-4 education sessions each week across the school year to groups of 20-30 people, reaching between 1,800-2,400 young people. Funding will enable the YFC to hold paid educator positions. The YFC has already received training in the provision of peer support through headspace, enabling them to present confidently on mental health content. These roles would enable the development of professional skills and provide an entry into ongoing work within the sector.



Feed Me Bellarine

DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION OF FEED ME GEELONG

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW:

Feed Me's vision is to get every hospitality, food outlet, farmer and producer on the Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast, and Geelong on a food waste movement to help feed our community in need with what was destined for the bin. This is a volunteer led community food charity collecting spare food and excess produce and sharing it with the community, no questions asked.

Feed Me rescue food, cook meals, and deliver chef made meals, pantry items, fresh fruit, and vegetables directly to over 700 families in the region. Starting small with 2 people and within 12 months they have grown to over 100 volunteers with 2 further locations sourced and cooking over 4,100 meals a week. Since March 2020 they have delivered over 104,000 meals to the community using waste food rescued from the region.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

Feed Me require funds to develop and expand *Feed Me Geelong* from a new premise in Newtown. Feed Me strives to help meet an urgent need to support the most vulnerable people in our community through food relief, social inclusion and connection. Given the events of 2020, they are currently unable to keep up with the significantly increased requests for help that arrive from local agencies like Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, Bethany, BCYF, Geelong Police, The Salvation Army and more. Feed Me rely on a team of volunteers to help meet these requests for help.

This grant, allowing the expansion and development of the new facilities in Geelong, would allow more volunteers to assist, allowing Feed Me to reach an increased number of vulnerable and isolated people including 200 Aboriginal families via partnership with Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, 250 International Students (mainly Indian), and the 100's if not 1000's of local families in the region that have found themselves in a situation that they have never been in before.

Feed Me is setting up locations to be self-sustainable so they can offer their services as a long-lasting institution for the region. Feed Me run a donation only Market and Cafe which they are wanting to establish in Geelong. If delivered food relief is too embarrassing or they wish to remain anonymous this model of donation shopping allows them to access food relief with dignity. Feed Me Geelong is another location to be added to Feed Me Bellarine and Feed Me Surf Coast.

The support Feed Me has from hospitality traders in the Bellarine region is strong and the call to have a presence in Geelong for food rescue and relief is why they have secured a further premise here. They are currently servicing Geelong families experiencing food insecurity from their Ocean Grove location. Residents in Corio, Lara and North Geelong do not have the capacity to drive all the way to Ocean Grove to use this service. Agencies are also calling out for a location they can bring their clients to shop and integrate them in a safe and secure way back into society.

Feed Me Geelong has signed a three-year lease in Newtown and need funding for capital equipment, fit out and rent.



Hope Bereavement Care & Bluebird Foundation

LIGHTING THE PATH: YOUTH SUICIDE AND THE ART OF GRIEVING

Lighting the Path is a unique collaboration that tells a difficult story - that of the bereavement journey of those touched by youth suicide. The project seeks to raise awareness, reduce stigma and increase our community's capacity to support those bereaved. Lighting the Path sends a powerful message to a broad audience: the experience of grief and loss after a young person has died by suicide can and must be openly shared.

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW:

The project draws together three Geelong-based organisations, all leaders in their respective fields - lead agency Hope Bereavement Care (Hope), Bluebird Foundation Inc (Bluebird), and local film production company, The Compulsive.

- Hope is a community driven partnership model offering free information, support, groups, and counselling when grieving the death of a baby or child, the sudden and unexpected death of an adult and those experiencing loss after suicide. The Support After Suicide program is delivered in partnership with Jesuit Social Services.
- Bluebird Foundation is a community arts organisation creating and delivering quality arts programs that make a real difference in people's lives. Bluebird was founded in 2009 by a group of volunteers with a dream to change the lives of people in our community who are experiencing disadvantage.
- The Compulsive is a film production company that creates evocative and honest films that tell unique stories, and give a voice to the unheard, assisting organisations to create strong narratives that turn complex issues into beautiful films.

THE NEED:

Suicide may be an uncomfortable topic to discuss, but it is the leading cause of death among young people. Just this year, five young people have died by suicide across Geelong schools. This has left thousands grieving, in families, schools and in the broader community.

Lighting the Path will:

1. Support individuals bereaved by youth suicide to tell their stories and share their experiences through art.
2. Create public artworks that leave a legacy and prompt meaningful conversations about youth suicide to promote community healing.
3. Raise community awareness and provide education about the process of bereavement after youth suicide to reduce stigma and isolation.
4. Create a meaningful partnership between Hope and Bluebird, two grassroots organisations working in the Barwon region, to promote health and well-being outcomes through art.

HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:

Grant funds will support bereavement counsellors and professional artists to guide a discrete number of participants as they delve deep into their personal grief stories and express them artistically.

Grant funds will pay the artists, and will pay for the materials they use, to transform these stories into public performance, and public installation - art that can be shared with the local community.

Grant funds will contribute to the making of a documentary film that will be distributed through festivals, educational forums, and online platforms, ultimately reaching a global audience.